(d) the total increase in the import bill of the country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) International Crude Oil prices have been on a consistent up-trend since 2003-04. Indian Basket of Crude Oil touched an all time high of $142.04 per barrel on 03/07/2008.

The high oil prices in the international market directly impact the cost price of petroleum products in the country. As passing on the entire impact of increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in a steep increase in the domestic prices of petroleum products, aggravated the inflationary conditions and weakened the high growth momentum of the economy, the Government has taken following measures;

(i) to ensure that the burden was equitably shared by all the stakeholders; namely, the Government, the Oil Companies and the consumers:-

- Issue of Oil Bonds by the Government to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to compensate them partly for their under-recoveries;
- Sharing of a part of the under recoveries by Upstream Public Sector Oil Companies by offering price discounts;
- Downstream oil companies to bear the remaining under-recoveries;

(ii) Reduction of Custom Duty on crude oil to Nil and on Petrol and Diesel to 2.5%;

(iii) Reduction of Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel by Re. 1 per litre; and

(iv) Marginal increase in the retail selling prices of Petrol, Diesel and Domestic LPG by Rs.5/- per litre, Rs.3/- per litre and Rs. 50/- per 14.2 kg. cylinder respectively, effective 5th June 2008.

(d) The import bill for crude oil and petroleum products has increased by Rs. 60,516 crore and Rs.74,014 crore during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively, as compared to the previous years.

Exploration under NELP

424. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and the public sector oil companies have agreed to take steps to enhance energy security in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the exploration made under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in different blocks, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several steps have been taken/are in hand to

accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Coal Bed Methane (CBM).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol etc. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

(c) As far as NELP regime is concerned 66 Oil/gas discoveries have been made so far. A total of 650 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) Oil + Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) has accrued and development plans for 6 oil/gas discoveries have been approved. Few oil and gas discoveries are already on production.

Barmer to Salaya oil pipeline

425. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSPL (Barmer to Salaya) pipeline is covered under Field Development Plan (FDP);

(b) the details of concessions made in this project because of FDP status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in this project Landfall point is allowed to be shifted up to the part instead of usual point; and

(d) the reasons for making such an exception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government has agreed to shift the delivery point from the Field in Barmer to Salaya subject to certain terms and conditions. The contractor has not yet submitted the revised FDP, including Barmer Salaya pipeline, for approval of the Management Committee, as required under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

(b) to (d) Shifting of the Delivery Point was agreed to by the Government subject to certain terms and conditions and to facilitate development and production of oil from the block RJ-ON-90/1.